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REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,703 to Nagaraj in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. JP58073252 to Miura, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,347,230 to Noro; claims 3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaraj, Miura, and Noro, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,424,849 to Yamashita et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,334,312 to Yoshida; and claims 4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaraj, Miura, Noro, Yamashita et al., and Yoshida, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,185 to Huttunen. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Again, Nagaraj only describes an automatic line equalizer for use with a T1 or an E1 repeater in a telecommunications system. And Miura et al. only describe a feeding switch for an optical relay transmission line. Thus, neither reference discloses or suggests signals from a transmission line that is a power line. The Examiner cited Noro as a new combining reference that allegedly suggests that "a power line is an example of a transmission line with switching fluctuations." Page 3, lines 4-7 of the Office Action.

Noro describes an amplification circuit for power amplification including a main power source line 42 for supplying a driving power to a load where a switching element Qs is inserted in the main power source line 42 in Fig. 1. Noro, therefore, only describes an amplification circuit with a power source line, and does not disclose or suggest a power line as an example of a transmission line over which a signal is transmitted from a send side.

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In other words, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine Nagaraj, Miura et al., and Noro, the combination would still have failed to disclose or suggest,

“[a] method used in equalization processing, comprising the steps of:

extracting, on the basis of a signal received from a transmission line that is a power line, reference information on fluctuation of transmission line characteristics which fluctuate periodically according to an on-off state of a switching element in an apparatus that is connected to the power line, wherein said signal is sent from a send side; and

performing equalization processing while switching equalization characteristics in accordance with said fluctuation of transmission line characteristics,” as recited in amended claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Advantageously, the claimed invention provides for high-speed transmissions via a power line communications system.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, together with claim 2 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Nagaraj, Miura et al., and Noro, separately and in combination, for at least the above-stated reasons. Claim 5 incorporates features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above, and is, therefore, together with claims 6 and 9-10 dependent therefrom, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons. The Examiner cited Yamashita et al., Yoshida, and Huttunen as combining references to specifically address the additional features recited in dependent claims 3-4 and 7-8, respectively. As such, the combination of these references would still have failed to cure the above-described deficiencies of Nagaraj, Miura et al., and Noro even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to do so. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-4 and 7-8 are patentable over the cited references for at least the above-stated reasons.

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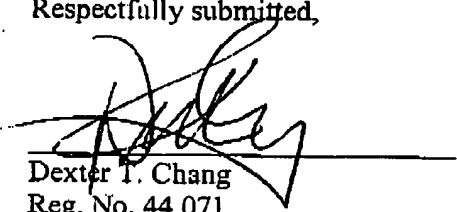
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In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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